

SENATE BILL 61
By Cohen

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
Chapter 4, Part 9, relative to postsecondary
financial assistance from lottery proceeds.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-902(32), is amended by deleting the words and punctuation "other similar courses." and by substituting instead the language "other similar courses according to the uniform system of weighting of courses adopted by the state board of education under § 49-1-302(a)(18).".

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-902, is amended by deleting item (31) in its entirety and by renumbering subsequent items appropriately.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-907(3)(A), is amended by deleting the word "unweighted" and by substituting instead the word "weighted".

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-920(a)(5), is amended by deleting the word "unweighted" and by substituting instead the word "weighted".

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-902, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated item:

() "Entering freshman" means a student entering a postsecondary institution who has not attempted any semester hours at any postsecondary institution after graduating from high school, completing high school in a home school program, or obtaining a GED;

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-907, is amended by deleting the words and punctuation "To be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship," and substituting

instead the words and punctuation “To be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship as an entering freshman,” and by deleting item (2) in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

(2) Be admitted to and enroll in an eligible postsecondary institution no later than sixteen (16) months after graduation from high school;

SECTION 7. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-908, is amended by deleting the words and punctuation “To be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship,” and substituting instead the words and punctuation “To be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship as an entering freshman,” and by deleting item (3) in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

(3) Be admitted to and enroll in an eligible postsecondary institution no later than sixteen (16) months after completing high school in a Tennessee home school program, obtaining a GED, or graduating from high school.

SECTION 8. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-916(a), is amended by deleting subdivision (5) in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

(5) Be admitted to and enroll in an eligible postsecondary institution no later than sixteen (16) months after graduating from high school.

SECTION 9. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-916(b), is amended by deleting the word “and” at the end of subdivision (3), by deleting the punctuation “.” at the end of subdivision (4) and substituting instead the word and punctuation “; and”, and by adding the following language as new subdivision (5):

(5) Be admitted to and enroll in an eligible postsecondary institution no later than sixteen (16) months after completing high school in a Tennessee home school program or graduating from high school.

SECTION 10. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-909(a)(3), is amended by deleting the words “or a postsecondary institution located outside of Tennessee that is accredited by a regional accrediting association”.

SECTION 11. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-916(d)(2), is amended by deleting the first sentence of the subdivision and by substituting instead the following:

Such student shall apply for the General Assembly Merit Scholarship in the year following graduation from high school and while the student is attending, as a freshman, an eligible postsecondary institution.

SECTION 12. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 4, Part 9, is amended by adding the following language as a new section:

§ 49-4-9__.

(a) To be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship as a transfer student from a regionally accredited postsecondary institution located outside of Tennessee, a student shall:

(1) Meet the requirements for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship that are applicable to the student for the method and date by which the student completed high school or the requirements applicable to a student obtaining a GED, except any requirement that the student enroll in an eligible postsecondary institution no later than sixteen (16) months after graduating from high school, completing high school in a Tennessee home school program, or obtaining a GED;

(2) Be admitted to and enroll in a regionally accredited postsecondary institution located outside of Tennessee no later than sixteen (16) months after graduating from high school, completing high school in a Tennessee home school program, or obtaining a GED without attending any postsecondary institution between completion of high school and enrollment in the regionally accredited postsecondary institution;

(3) Maintain satisfactory progress in a course of study in accordance with the standards and practices used for federal Title IV programs by the regionally accredited postsecondary institution in which the student is enrolled;

(4) Meet the requirements of § 49-4-911 at every point at which eligibility for the continuation of a Tennessee HOPE scholarship is reviewed;

(5) Apply for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship while enrolled as a student at the regionally accredited postsecondary institution; and

(6) Be admitted to and enroll in an eligible postsecondary institution.

(b) A student who applies for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship under this section shall have been continuously enrolled at an out-of-state regionally accredited postsecondary institution or institutions prior to application.

(c) Any student who transfers to a Tennessee postsecondary institution without applying for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship shall be ineligible for the HOPE scholarship.

(d) A student receiving a HOPE scholarship under this section shall be eligible to receive the scholarship as provided in § 49-4-913.

(e) No retroactive award of a Tennessee HOPE scholarship shall be made under this section.

(f) If a student receiving a Tennessee HOPE scholarship under this section also meets the academic requirements for a General Assembly Merit Scholarship that are applicable to the student for the method and date by which the student completed high school, then such student shall also receive the General Assembly Merit Scholar supplemental award.

SECTION 13. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

